

Rehabilitating Beauty I: How C. S. Lewis Fought the Cult of the Ugly in his Fiction

1. The triumph of the ugly: egalitarianism and the anti-fairytale ending of *Shrek*
2. Painful memories of Eden: ugliness hides/conceals/distorts; beauty uncovers/reveals/clarifies
3. 70's v today: Cult of the Ugly; good/true/beautiful are interrelated; kill one, others atrophy
4. In heaven, true fairytales & CSL's fiction neither misery nor ugliness can infect joy/beauty
5. OSP: as Ransom's eyes are opened to beauty of Mars, Weston grows more blind and bent
6. Weston/21st c willing to destroy all in name of single virtue (species survival/egalitarianism)
7. P/THS increasingly apocalyptic: good gets better, bad worse; impersonal God of the Unman
8. P: masculinity and femininity as real essences: a complementarity that must not be collapsed
9. THS: Lop-sided room v stock responses: reeducating a bent society through fairytales

Louis Markos, Professor in English & Scholar in Residence at Houston Baptist U, holds the Robert H. Ray Chair in Humanities; his 22 books include *Lewis Agonistes*, *Atheism on Trial*, *From Achilles to Christ*, *On the Shoulders of Hobbits*, *Restoring Beauty* (on which this speech is based), and *The Dreaming Stone & In the Shadow of Troy* (two novels in which his children become part of Greek myth and epic). His most recent books are *The Myth Made Fact: Reading Greek and Roman Mythology through Christian Eyes* and *From Plato to Christ: How Platonic Thought Shaped the Christian Faith* (due out this month from InterVarsity Press).

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1. Chronicles: the felt beauty of Narnia; Narnia as the true England; Déjà vu; God in the Garden
2. LWW: Battles are ugly when women fight: GKC & women's suffrage; restoring gender
3. PC: Telmarine quarrels with supernat./PM quarrels with transcendence/hierarchy/distinction
4. VDT: World's End and beyond; drinking light; out of Plato's Cave into Dante's Empyrean
5. SC: Back into Cave; air of our world is thick: Signs/Beauty pierce darkness/keep us on track
6. SC: Puddleglum's challenge: breaking the chains of the perverse/ugly/banal; seeking the Sun
7. HHB: pilgrims seeking freedom; archetypes of light/dark, natural/artificial, straight/crooked
8. MN: Differing responses to Creative Beauty of Aslan's Song; a Magic stronger than Jadis'
9. LB: Killing trees; Tashlan: religious pluralism leads to moral confusion; Emeth v dwarfs
10. TWHF: The bent soul of the ugly princess; idolatrous love that devours; putting on the veil
11. TWHF: Orual's day in court: the coming of the Bridegroom: the final, eschatological beauty

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